United Nations A/C.3/54/L.1

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Fifty-fourth session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items to be allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be listed in the letter from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Third Committee (A/C.3/54/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/54/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session, relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, the schedule of related intergovernmental meetings and the availability of documentation, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

3. In accordance with the wish of the Committee, time will be allocated for a question-and-answer session with senior Secretariat officials and with the special rapporteurs and special representatives on human rights questions following presentation of their reports under sub-item 116 (c). It should also be noted that delegations may make one statement each under sub-items 116 (a) and (d), which are to be discussed separately. Delegations may also make two statements under sub-items 116 (b), (c) and (e), but they should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.

List of documents

4. Attention is drawn to the status of preparation of documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Third Committee (A/C.3/54/L.1/Add.1). Because of the critical need for the timely issuance of documentation, that document will be revised to update the information contained therein.

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Length of statements

5. In accordance with established practice, the Committee has decided to limit statements on all agenda items. The time limit for statements in the general discussion of the various agenda items is seven minutes for delegations and 15 minutes for representatives of groups of delegations. Secretariat officials will also be limited to seven-minute statements, except when they deliver oral reports. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the same day and both meetings are devoted to consideration of the same item. The first statement in exercise of the right of reply may be five minutes, and the second statement should be no longer than three minutes.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

6. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The General Assembly has reminded delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance for ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement that at least one quarter of the members of the Committee must be present to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Control and limitation of documentation

7. The Committee's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995 on the control and limitation of documentation. The Secretariat wishes to emphasize, in particular, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of that resolution, in which the Assembly requested, *inter alia*, restraint on the part of members of all intergovernmental bodies in making proposals containing requests for new reports.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

8. The Committee is reminded that in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly, chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/54/3) are to be considered in conjunction with documentation under other agenda items, as well as under item 12.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

9. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Third Committee and previous decisions of the General Assembly, it is proposed that the Committee set a target date of 19 November for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Proposed programme of work of the Third Committee

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 14 September	
(Plenary of the General Assembly) Consecutive meetings of the Main Committees to elect the Chairpersons	
Tuesday, 21 September	
3 p.m. Election of the Bureau and organization of work	
Week of 4–8 October	
Wednesday, 6 October	
10 a.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat official and general discussion of:	
Item 106 Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3) Report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (A/54/57) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the World Programmes of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/54/59) Interim report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress towards the goal of education for all: the year 2000 assessment (A/54/128-E/1999/70)

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Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General, prepared in conjunction with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on effective ways and means for achieving education for all (A/54/128-E/1999/70)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Older Persons, 1999 (A/54/268)
	Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the International Year of the Family (A/54/256)
	Note by the Secretary-General regarding the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (A/54/62)
1 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on item 106*	
Thursday, 7 October	
10 a.m. *Item 106* General discussion (continued)	
Friday, 8 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Item 106* General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 106*	
Week of 11-15 October	
Monday, 11 October	
3 p.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 109 Advancement of women[a]	Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3)
	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the twentieth and twenty-first sessions (A/54/38/Rev.1)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/54/123-E/1999/66)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
	Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/54/342)
	Report of the Secretary-General on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/54/341)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/54/224)
	Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/54/156-E/1999/102 and A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1)
	Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/54/225)
Item 110 Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women[a]	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/54/264)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" on its second session (E/1999/60)
6 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on items 109 and 110*	
Tuesday, 12 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Items 109 and 110* General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Wednesday, 13 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Items 109 and 110* General discussion (continued)	
Thursday, 14 October	
3 p.m. *Items 109 and 110* General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 109 and 110*	
Friday, 15 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat official and general discussion of:	
Item 107 Crime prevention and criminal justice[b]	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3)
	Report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women (A/54/69–E/1999/8)
	Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/54/289)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
Item 108 International drug control[b]	Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/54/186)
1 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on items 107 and 108*	

Programme	*Documentation*
Week of 18–22 October	
Monday, 18 October	
3 p.m. *Items 107 and 108* General discussion (continued)	
Tuesday, 19 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Items 107 and 108* General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 20 October	
10 a.m. *Items 107 and 108* General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 107 and 108*	
Thursday, 21 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with Special Rapporteur and general discussion of:	
Item 114[c] Elimination of racism and racial discrimination	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/54/18) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/54/299) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination

Programme	*Documentation*
Item 115[c] Right of peoples to self-determination	Report of the Secretary-General on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/327) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/54/326)
1 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on items 114 and 115*	
Friday, 22 October	
10 a.m. *Items 114 and 115* General discussion (continued)	
Week of 25–29 October	
Monday, 25 October	
3 p.m. *Items 114 and 115* General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 114 and 115*	
Tuesday, 26 October No meetings	
Wednesday, 27 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 112 Promotion and protection of the rights of children	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/545/265) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the protection of children affected by armed conflict Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Programme		*Documentation*
1 p.m.	*Closure of list of speakers on item 112*	
Thursday, 28 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
	Item 112 General discussion (continued)	
Friday, 29 October		
10 a.m.		
	Item 112 General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 112*	
Week of 1–5 November		
Monday, 1 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
	Introductory statements and general discussion of:	
	Item 113 Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme of activities for the Decade
1 p.m.	*Closure of list of speakers on item 113*	
6 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 113*	
Tuesday, 2 November		
3 p.m.		
	Introductory statements and general discussion of:	
	Item 116 (a)[d] [e] Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments	Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3) Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/54/40) Report of the Committee against Torture (A/54/44)

Programme		*Documentation*
		Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/54/277)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
		Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/54/189)
		Report of the Secretary-General on operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/54/177)
		Note by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
6 p.m.	*Closure of list of speakers on item 116 (a)*	
Wednesday, 3 November		
10 a.m.		
Item 116 (a)	General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	*Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 116 (a)*	
Thursday, 4 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		
Introductory statements, dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with special rapporteurs and representatives and general discussion of:		
Item 116 (b)[d] [e]	Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms	Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/54/303)
		Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

Programme		*Documentation*
		Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization
		Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses
		Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism
		Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/54/222 and Add.1)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia
		Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/54/216)
		Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004 (A/54/318)
		Report of the Secretary-General on public information activities in the field of human rights (A/54/317)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/54/319)
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (A/54/137)
Item 116 (c)[d e]	Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on Rwanda
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq

Programme		*Documentation*
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on human rights in Haiti
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteurs on a joint mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Nigeria
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Kosovo
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a note regarding human rights in southern Lebanon and west Bekaa (A/54/188)
Item 116 (d)[d e]	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Item 116 (e)[d e]	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/54/36)

Programme	*Documentation*
1 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on items 116 (b) to (e)*	
Friday, 5 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 116 (b) to (e)	Dialogue with special rapporteurs and representatives and general discussion (continued)
Week of 8-12 November	
Monday, 8 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 116 (b) to (e)	General discussion (continued)
Tuesday, 9 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 116 (b) to (e)	General discussion (continued)
Wednesday, 10 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 116 (b) to (e)	General discussion (continued)
Thursday, 11 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 116 (b) to (e)	General discussion (concluded)
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 116 (b), (c), (d) and (e)*	

Programme	*Documentation*
Friday, 12 November	
10 a.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with the High Commissioner for Refugees and general discussion of:	
Item 111 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/54/12 and Add.1) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/54/285) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/54/286) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa
1 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on item 111*	
Week of 15–19 November	
Monday, 15 November	
3 p.m. *Item 111* General discussion (continued)	
Tuesday, 16 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Item 111* General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Wednesday, 17 November	
10 a.m. *Item 111* General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 111*	
3 p.m. Action on outstanding draft proposals	
Thursday, 18 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Action on outstanding draft proposals	
Friday, 19 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Item 12* Report of the Economic and Social Council	Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3)
Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee	

[a] It is proposed to discuss items 109 and 110 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[b] It is proposed to discuss items 107 and 108 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[c] See General Assembly decision 52/428; items 114 and 115 to be discussed jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[d] See General Assembly decision 53/434; sub-items (a) and (d) to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) to be discussed jointly.

[e] See General Assembly decision 53/434; delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.